

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 BIB-01 IO-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /081 W

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R 091338Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7966

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 1853

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU, HU

SUBJ: TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS,  
MARCH 2-3

1. LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRIAN FONMIN BIELKA AND HUNGARIAN FONMIN PUJA, WHICH OCCURRED IN CAPITALS OF BORDERING PROVINCES, MARCH 2-3, FOLLOWED PRETTY MUCH ANTICIPATED SCENARIO, ACCORDING TO MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEAD AMBASSADOR STEINER WHO TOOK PART IN TALKS.

2. ON BILATERAL SIDE HUNGARY AGREED TO OPENING OF NEW BORDER CROSSING AT SCHACHENDORF/BUCSU ON OCTOBER 1 AND TO LONG-PENDING CONSTRUCTION OF AUSTRIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN BUDAPEST. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS FIXING OF VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER LAZAR TO AUSTRIA IN MAY, IN RETURN FOR KREISKY 1973 VISIT, FOR SIGNING OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT. PUJA PROMISED "TO STUDY" AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS ON SMALL BORDER TRAFFIC AND ON ABOLISHMENT OF VISA REQUIREMENTS. ACCORDING TO STEINER, EXPECTATION IS THAT PROCESSING OF VISA APPLICATIONS WILL BE SPEEDED UP BUT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON BORDER TRAFFIC AND VISA ABOLISHMENT IS UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF HUNGARIAN OBSERVATIONS ABOUT "SHORTAGE OF HOTEL SPACE" AND "POTENTIAL THREAT OF SMUGGLING" OF INEXPENSIVE HUNGARIAN FOODSTUFFS  
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UNDER ANY SMALL BORDER TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT.

3. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, PUJA STAYED VERY CLOSE TO CURRENT COMMUNIST SCRIPT. CSCE FINAL ACT WAS PRAISED AND BOTH SIDES AGREED IT MUST BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED AS PREREQUISITE FOR FURTHER DETENTE. IMPORTANCE OF MBFR TALKS UNDERLINED AND "SLOW PROGRESS" TO DATE DEPLORED.

4. PUJA ENGAGED IN MINOR SQUABBLE WITH AUSTRIAN REPORTERS AT MARCH 2 PRESS CONFERENCE IN GRAZ WHEN ASKED WHY HUNGARY WAS NOT PERMITTING PUBLIC SALE OF AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPERS ACCORDING TO CSCE FINAL ACT. PUJA SAID IMPORTATION OF WESTERN PRESS COULD BE ALLOWED ONLY IF PAPERS CONTAINED "NO SLANDEROUS ARTICLES ABOUT HUNGARY" AND WENT ON HALF-JOKINGLY THAT HUNGARIANS ARE EVEN BETTER INFORMED THAN AUSTRIANS SINCE THEY HAVE ACCESS TO AUSTRIAN RADIO AND TV IN ADDITION TO OFFERINGS OF HUNGARIAN AND OTHER EE MEDIA.

5. STEINER CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS ROUTINE IN NATURE BUT NON-ACCOMMODATING ON SUBSTANCE. HE HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, HUNGARIANS WERE TAKING STAND-PAT STANCE ON NON-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF BILATERAL ACTIVITIES WHERE AUSTRIANS HAD HOPE FURTHER EXPANSION WOULD BE POSSIBLE.BUCHANAN

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